

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for improving service accounting in a network, the method comprising the steps of:  
in an authentication, authorization, and accounting server;  
authenticating and authorizing a client;  
in response to authenticating and authorizing the client, sending an authorization accept message that includes an accounting record within the message; and causing the accounting record to be logged.
2. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the step of obtaining the accounting record for the client from an external resource.
3. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising the step of obtaining the accounting record for the client from a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol directory.
4. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the client is selected from the group consisting of a wireless network client, a wired network client, and a dial up client.
5. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on a dedicated logging device.
6. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on an authentication, authorization, and accounting server.
7. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on a network device.

8. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises logging the accounting record with a session start log entry.
9. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises logging the accounting record with a session stop log entry.
10. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the accounting record comprises a handle to a second accounting record.
11. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 10, further comprising the steps of:  
retrieving the second accounting record using the handle to the second accounting  
record; and  
causing the second accounting record to be logged.
12. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the accounting record comprises data in a plurality of attribute-value pairs.
13. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of sending is performed in a protocol selected from the group consisting of Remote Authentication Dial In User Service, Terminal Access Controller Access Control System, Diameter, and Security Assertion Markup Language.
14. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein a particular data set is used in the step of authenticating and authorizing and the accounting record comprises said particular data set.
15. (Currently Amended) A method for improving service accounting in a network, the method comprising the steps of:  
in a client of an authentication, authorization, and accounting server:  
sending an authorization request;

- receiving an accounting record ~~in with~~ an authorization accept message; and causing the accounting record to be logged.
16. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 15, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on a dedicated logging device.
17. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 15, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on an authentication, authorization, and accounting server.
18. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium carrying~~computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 1.
19. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium carrying~~computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 2.
20. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium carrying~~computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 3.
21. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium carrying~~computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 4.

22. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium carrying~~computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 5.
23. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium carrying~~computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 6.
24. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium carrying~~computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 7.
25. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium carrying~~computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 8.
26. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium carrying~~computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 9.
27. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium carrying~~computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 10.

28. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium carrying~~computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 11.
29. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium carrying~~computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 12.
30. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium carrying~~computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 13.
31. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium carrying~~computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 14.
32. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium carrying~~computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 15.
33. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium carrying~~computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 16.

34. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium carrying~~computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 17.
35. (New) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving, subsequent to the sending, a start session message that includes the  
accounting record;  
wherein the causing the accounting record to be logged is performed in response to  
the receiving; and  
wherein the authorization accept message and the start session message conform to  
the Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS) protocol.
36. (New) A method as recited in Claim 15, further comprising:  
sending, subsequent to sending the authorization request, a start session message that  
includes the accounting record; and  
wherein the authorization accept message and the start session message conform to  
the Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS) protocol.